



To Prospective Bidders:

Attached is Errata #2 related to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Desert, North Coast, and Central Coast State Park Units Camping and Day Use Concession Operations.

Pursuant to the RFP, Page 13, Section 3, potential proposers are hereby notified that Castle Rock SP, Portola Redwoods SP, and Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP have been removed from the RFP and Sample Concession Contract and Errata #2 reflects those changes.

The 10 remaining parks in the RFP are Salton Sea SRA, Providence Mountains SRA and Picacho SRA in the Desert region; Castle Crags SP, Benbow Lake SRA, and Standish-Hickey SRA in the North Coast region; and Gray Whale Cove SB, Moss Landing SB, Zmudowski SB, and Limekiln SP in the Central Coast region.

Errata #2 and other information are available at http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22548. If you have any questions, please contact the Concessions, Reservations and Fees Division at (916) 653-7733 or e-mail concessions@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

for Ruth Coleman
Director

Attachment

cc: Tony Perez, Deputy Director, Park Operations
James A. Luscutoff, Chief, Concessions, Reservations, and Fees Division
Ted Novack, Partnership Agreement Program Manager

SECTION 1 - PROJECT SUMMARY

1.1 GOAL & OBJECTIVES

Department Mission

The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

Goal of this Request for Proposals (RFP)

The goal of this RFP to provide continued public access and visitor services including the operation and maintenance of campgrounds, day use areas, and recreational facilities at park units in the Desert, North Coast, and Central Coast areas of California State Parks.

Objectives of this RFP

- 1) Provide consistently maintained campground, day use, recreational facilities, and signage.
- 2) Provide adequate staffing to ensure maximum use and protection of facilities, roads, and trails.
- 3) Collect campground and day use entrance fees.
- 4) Ensure the safety and convenience of recreational opportunities for park visitors.
- 5) Protect the State's natural and cultural resources.

1.2 GENERAL INFORMATION

Desert Parks Proposed for Concession Operation

- Salton Sea State Recreation Area
- Providence Mountains State Recreation Area
- Picacho State Recreation Area

North Coast Parks Proposed for Concession Operation

- Castle Crags State Park
- ~~Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park~~
- Benbow Lake State Recreation Area
- Standish Hickey State Recreation Area

Central Coast Parks Proposed for Concession Operation

- ~~Castle Rock State Park~~
- ~~Portola Redwoods State Park~~
- Gray Whale Cove State Beach
- Moss Landing State Beach
- Zmudowski State Beach
- Limekiln State Park

Detailed information on each of the above parks is available in the Sample Concession Contract, Exhibit A1, Premises Description, and Exhibit A2, Maps, included with this RFP and on the California State Parks website at <http://www.parks.ca.gov/parkindex>.

REVENUE AND ATTENDANCE STATISTICS – North Coast Units

Unit Name	Fiscal Year	REVENUE				ATTENDANCE			
		Day Use	Camping	Other	Total	Paid Day Use	Free Day Use	Camping	Attendance
Castle Craggs SP	2010-2011	\$35,807	\$101,511	\$0	\$137,318	14,799	29,992	15,015	59,806
	2009-2010	\$34,189	\$97,476	\$175	\$131,840	15,140	29,709	15,966	60,815
	2008-2009	\$28,202	\$88,442	\$3,179	\$119,823	15,486	31,495	17,054	64,035
	2007-2008	\$29,487	\$102,962	\$2,128	\$134,577	15,934	32,547	17,332	65,813
	2006-2007	\$31,992	\$91,750	\$5,764	\$129,506	16,393	30,100	18,382	64,875
	5 year Totals	\$159,677	\$482,141	\$11,246	\$653,064	77,752	153,843	83,749	315,344
Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP	2010-2011	\$6,117	\$58,906	\$1,265	\$66,288	2,237	18,516	5,916	26,669
	2009-2010	\$7,049	\$42,032	\$1,587	\$50,668	2,366	14,414	6,985	23,765
	2008-2009	\$5,255	\$47,507	\$2,269	\$55,031	2,051	18,020	8,513	28,584
	2007-2008	\$5,362	\$50,978	\$2,039	\$58,379	2,450	18,280	7,477	28,207
	2006-2007	\$5,177	\$49,703	\$2,314	\$57,194	2,891	19,689	9,038	31,618
	5-year Totals	\$28,960	\$249,126	\$9,474	\$287,560	11,995	88,919	37,929	138,843
Benbow Lake SRA	2010-2011	\$3,694	\$113,055	\$9,330	\$126,079	1,011	8,340	3,027	12,378
	2009-2010	\$4,196	\$73,662	\$9,504	\$87,362	1,750	14,782	1,691	18,223
	2008-2009	\$4,184	\$65,086	\$5,207	\$74,477	2,940	9,695	12,206	24,841
	2007-2008	\$14,119	\$77,707	\$770	\$92,596	10,807	21,727	7,724	40,258
	2006-2007	\$11,333	\$71,709	\$2,935	\$85,977	6,248	14,956	7,807	29,011
	5 year Totals	\$37,526	\$401,219	\$27,746	\$466,491	22,756	69,500	32,455	124,711
Standish Hickey SRA	2010-2011	\$3,372	\$159,029	\$0	\$162,401	1,386	7,715	14,462	23,563
	2009-2010	\$3,743	\$150,130	\$4,667	\$158,540	564	195	6,906	7,665
	2008-2009	\$4,479	\$119,653	\$5,156	\$129,288	2,000	706	11,363	14,069
	2007-2008	\$4,764	\$128,053	\$5,361	\$138,178	2,054	2,067	17,682	21,803
	2006-2007	\$3,657	\$118,048	\$5,983	\$127,688	2,367	9,093	17,705	29,165
	5 year Totals	\$16,643	\$515,884	\$21,167	\$716,095	8,371	19,776	68,118	96,265
5 Year Totals		\$243,455	\$2,206,582	\$69,637	\$2,519,674.00				
		\$246,455	\$1,807,399	\$69,633	\$2,123,210	121,093	567,367	334,110	1,022,570
		\$213,846	\$1,558,273	\$60,159	\$1,835,650	109,098	478,448	296,181	883,727

REVENUE AND ATTENDANCE STATISTICS – Central Coast Units

Unit Name	Fiscal Year	REVENUE				ATTENDANCE				
		Day Use	Camping	Other	Total	Paid Day Use	Free Day Use	Camping	Attendance	
Castle Rock SP	2010-2011	\$35,817	\$18,416	\$300	\$54,533	-	11,432	99,476	2,613	113,521
	2009-2010	\$32,962	\$16,988	\$4,200	\$54,150	-	9,346	70,966	2,544	82,856
	2008-2009	\$27,754	\$13,097	\$5,510	\$46,361	-	10,102	69,531	3,035	82,668
	2007-2008	\$24,822	\$10,467	\$4,212	\$39,501	-	9,327	67,616	2,303	79,246
	2006-2007	\$23,803	\$9,678	\$4,534	\$38,015	-	8,647	67,108	2,230	77,985
	5-year Totals	\$145,158	\$68,646	\$18,756	\$232,560	-	48,854	374,697	12,725	436,276
Portola Redwoods SP	2010-2011	\$23,984	\$206,866	\$4,346	\$235,196	-	8,738	853	32,033	41,624
	2009-2010	\$29,675	\$163,247	\$5,830	\$198,752	-	12,202	668	30,386	43,256
	2008-2009	\$18,686	\$164,356	\$463	\$183,505	-	13,210	1,256	33,366	47,832
	2007-2008	\$18,325	\$170,207	\$785	\$189,317	-	13,159	710	28,861	42,730
	2006-2007	\$15,716	\$144,203	\$685	\$160,604	-	10,900	547	24,830	36,277
	5-year Totals	\$106,386	\$848,879	\$12,109	\$967,374	-	58,209	4,034	149,476	211,719
Gray Whale Cove SB	2010-2011	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	30,417	0	30,417
	2009-2010	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	31,898	0	31,898
	2008-2009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	36,243	0	36,243
	2007-2008	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	36,735	0	36,735
	2006-2007	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	28,079	0	28,079
	5 year Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	163,372	0	163,372
Moss Landing SB	2010-2011	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	233,192	0	233,192
	2009-2010	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	212,560	0	212,560
	2008-2009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	200,432	0	200,432
	2007-2008	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	208,852	0	208,852
	2006-2007	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	197,008	0	197,008
	5 year Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	1,052,044	0	1,052,044
Zmudowski SB	2010-2011	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	40,058	0	40,058
	2009-2010	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	34,764	0	34,764
	2008-2009	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	37,808	0	37,808
	2007-2008	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	39,636	0	39,636
	2006-2007	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	37,536	0	37,536
	5 year Totals	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	0	189,802	0	189,802
Limekiln SB	2010-2011	\$27,577	\$109,305	\$0	\$136,882	-	5,615	1,397	6,998	14,010
	2009-2010	\$275	\$1,427	\$0	\$1,702	-	0	0	0	0
	2008-2009	\$6,430	\$46,850	\$0	\$53,280	-	2,507	922	6,371	9,800
	2007-2008	\$27,322	\$166,179	\$475	\$193,976	-	9,532	4,482	18,116	32,130
	2006-2007	\$19,915	\$147,358	\$0	\$167,273	-	8,798	5,612	19,422	33,832
	5 year Totals	\$81,519	\$471,119	\$475	\$553,113	-	26,452	12,413	50,907	89,772
5 Year Totals		\$333,063 \$81,519	\$1,388,644 \$471,119	\$31,340 \$475	\$1,753,047 \$553,113	-	133,515 26,452	1,796,362 470,791	213,108 50,907	2,142,985 1,494,990

Revenue and attendance statistical fluctuations are due to various factors including weather, fee structures, and episodic events and conditions. Analysis for the year to year fluctuations is not possible in this RFP.

Site Visits

Proposers are encouraged to visit and walk through each of the park units on their own. Please do not call State Park staff or disturb personnel living in State residences to obtain information.

1.3 CONTRACT SUMMARY

It is critical that proposers be familiar with and understand all the terms and conditions of the Sample Concession Contract (included herein). The proposal should be based on the requirements of this contract in its entirety. The successful proposer has up to seven (7) days to review and sign the awarded contract. The successful proposer shall be expected to accept the provisions of the Sample Concession Contract, as written. If necessary, minor clarifications, approved by staff counsel, the Department of General Services, and the Attorney General, may be made prior to contract execution. The intent of the contract is to provide the public with the full range of park operations, high-quality reasonably priced goods and services in an authentic manner and atmosphere that enhances the visitor's experience and the educational, natural, and cultural resources of the park. The term of the contract is for a period of five (5) years.

Summary descriptions of some of the important contract provisions are described below.

At a minimum, the successful proposer will be required to:

1. Pay as annual rent the amount presented in the proposal, which, at a minimum, shall be three percent (3%) [or as bid] for each park unit or the following Minimum Annual Rent, whichever is higher:

Desert Park Units:

Salton Sea SRA \$2,000 [or as bid], Providence Mountains SRA \$1,600 [or as bid], Picacho SRA \$2,000 [or as bid]

North Coast Park Units:

Castle Crags SP \$4,000 [or as bid], ~~Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP \$1,600 [or as bid]~~, Benbow Lake SRA \$5,000 [or as bid], Standish-Hickey SRA \$5,000 [or as bid]

Central Coast Park Units:

~~Castle Rock SP \$1,600 [or as bid]~~, ~~Portola Redwoods SP \$6,000 [or as bid]~~, Gray Whale Cove SB \$1,600 [or as bid], Moss Landing SB \$800 [or as bid], Zmudowski SB \$800 [or as bid], Limekiln SP \$2,800 [or as bid]

Facility Maintenance Improvement Account

Rent shall go into a Facility Maintenance/Improvement Account to maintain the premises, facilities, furnishings, and equipment in good condition in accordance with the State Park standards as described in Section 5, Facility Maintenance/Improvement Account of the Sample Concession Contract.

Desert Park Units:**Salton Sea SRA Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$2,000)**

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$2,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Providence Mountains SRA Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$1,600)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$1,600)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Picacho SRA Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$2,000)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$2,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

North Coast Park Units:**Castle Crags SP Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$4,000)**

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$4,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

~~Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$1,600)~~

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$1,600)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

~~Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)~~

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Benbow Lake SRA Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$5,000)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$5,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Standish-Hickey SRA Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$5,000)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$5,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Central Coast Park Units:**~~Castle Rock SP Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$1,600)~~**

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$1,600)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

~~Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)~~

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

~~Portola Redwoods SP Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$6,000)~~

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$6,000)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

~~Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)~~

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Gray Whale Cove SB Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$1,600)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$1,600)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Moss Landing SB Rental Guarantee (Minimum bid is \$800)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\$800)}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount}) \text{ minus } (\text{Guaranteed Rent})} \times 20 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

Percentage of Gross Sales (Minimum bid is 3%)

$$\frac{(\text{Bid Amount})}{(\text{Highest Bid Amount})} \times 10 \text{ points} = \text{_____ points}$$

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED BY AND BETWEEN
THE PARTIES AS FOLLOWS:**

1. DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

The State for and in consideration of the agreements hereinafter stated, grants to Concessionaire for the purposes stated herein, the right, privilege, and duty to develop, equip, operate, and maintain a nonexclusive concession in Salton Sea State Recreation Area, Providence Mountains State Recreation Area, Picacho State Recreation Area, Castle Crags State Park, ~~Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park~~, Benbow Lake SRA, Standish-Hickey SRA, ~~Castle Rock State Park~~, ~~Portola Redwoods State Park~~, Gray Whale Cove State Beach, Moss Landing State Beach, Zmudowski State Beach, and Limekiln State Park at the location(s) as set forth in **Exhibit A1 and Exhibit A2**, attached to and made a part of this Contract (the "Premises"). The Premises shall be developed and operated for public outdoor recreation purposes in compliance with the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF).

The possessory interest herein given to the Concessionaire does not exclude the general public from the Premises; however, the use by the general public is limited by the terms and conditions of the possessory interest given herein. This Contract is not intended to confer third party beneficiary status to any member of the public who is benefited by the terms of this Contract. The possessory interest is further subject to all valid and existing contracts, leases, licenses, encumbrances, and claims of title that may affect the Premises.

2. CONDITION OF PREMISES

The taking of possession of the Premises by the Concessionaire, in itself, shall constitute acknowledgment that the Premises are in good and sufficient condition for the purposes for which Concessionaire is entering into this Contract. Concessionaire agrees to accept Premises in their presently existing condition, "AS IS," and that the State shall not be obligated to make any alterations, additions, or betterments to the Premises except as otherwise provided for in this Contract. Concessionaire shall

maintain the Premises in as good a condition or better than received during the term of this Contract.

3. TERM

The term of this Contract shall be for a period of five (5) years, commencing on the first day of the month following approval by the California Department of General Services. Should Concessionaire hold-over after the expiration of the term of this Contract with the express or implied consent of the State, such holding-over shall be deemed to be a tenancy from month-to-month at the herein stated prescribed rent as set forth in this Contract in Section 33, Surrender of Premises; Holding Over, of this Contract, subject otherwise to all the terms and conditions of this Contract.

For purposes of this Contract, the term "Contract Year" shall mean each one-year period of time that commences on the commencement date identified above, extending twelve (12) months therefrom, and continuing from each anniversary throughout the term of the Contract.

4. RENT

Concessionaire shall pay, without offset, deduction, prior notice, or demand, as "Minimum Annual Rent" the following:

Desert Park Units:

Salton Sea SRA \$2,000 [or as bid], Providence Mountains SRA \$1,600 [or as bid], and Picacho SRA \$2,000 [or as bid]

North Coast Park Units:

Castle Crags SP \$4,000 [or as bid], ~~Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP \$1,600 [or as bid]~~, Benbow Lake SRA \$5,000 [or as bid], and

Standish-Hickey SRA \$5,000 [or as bid]

Central Coast Park Units:

~~Castle Rock SP \$1,600 [or as bid], Portola Redwoods SP \$6,000 [or as bid],~~

GRIZZLY CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK

Nearly 30 miles inland from the coast, the lush, green, 393-acre park is an unspoiled gem. Towering ancient redwoods guard three separate parcels of unspoiled riverfront.



Location

The park is 20 miles southeast of Eureka on HWY 101, then 17 miles east of HWY 36.

Housing

There are four (4) Employee Residences:

Residence #1—Single family home, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 1,000 sq. ft. Currently unavailable.

Residence #2—Single family home, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 1,200 sq. ft. Currently unavailable.

Cabin A—Seasonal cabin, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 250 sq. ft. Currently available.

Cabin B—Seasonal cabin, 1 bedroom, 1 bath, approximately 250 sq. ft. Currently available.

Host Site—One designated host site, with full hook-ups.

Recreation

Boating—The Van Duzen River fluctuates in depth seasonally, but strong river currents make rafting and kayaking in winter and early spring a Class III adventure.

Picnicking, including a 30-unit group picnic area is open for day use.

Trails—4.5 miles of trails offer scenic views.

Swimming—Grizzly Creek joins the Van Duzen River to create a popular swimming spot.

Fishing—In late fall and early winter, steelhead and salmon migrate from the ocean.

Camping

Grizzly Creek has 30 family campsites, a group site and one hike/bike site. Cheatham Grove has five first come, first served environmental sites.

Natural Resources

Wildlife—Black-tailed deer watch for bobcats or mountain lions. Tracks of California black bears, raccoons and river otters may dot the river's damp banks on any morning. Beautiful pileated woodpeckers hammer at the trees, in the company of dark-eyed juncos, northern spotted owls, winter wrens and boisterous Steller's jays. Great blue herons fish among the river rocks. Endangered marbled murrelets nest in the redwood canopy, but corvids (jays, crows and ravens) prey upon their eggs and chicks.

~~*Habitats* – Coast redwood trees dominate the park. Near the eastern boundary of the redwoods' range, the trees rely on winter rains and morning fog for survival. As climate change accelerates, experts fear that diminished rain and fog may cause the loss of some redwoods as well as other plants and animals that depend on these forests. Some typical redwood understory plants include three-leaf white trillium, purple calypso orchids (lady slippers), fairy lanterns, wild ginger and Douglas irises. Douglas fir, tanoak and big leaf maple trees grow among various ferns, mosses, wild huckleberries and salal.~~

Cultural Resources

~~There are two archaeological sites, including a village, which may have been destroyed in the flood of 1964. There are nine historic buildings, including a residence, utility buildings, and the Visitor Center.~~

BENBOW LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA

To provide power for the new development in the valley, a concrete dam was constructed across the south fork of the Eel River in 1928. The dam not only provided power but also created Benbow Lake. The Benbow family interested in preserving the natural scene around the Hotel and along the river, made efforts to place the land under State protection. Today the park consists of 1,200 acres of riverfront, meadows and redwood groves.



Location

Two miles south of Garberville on Highway 101.

Housing

One (1) host site with full hook-ups.

Recreation

Hiking Trails – Pioneer Meadow and Pratt Mill Trails offers a 2½ mile loop with great views of the lake and South Fork country.

Picnicking includes a large day-use picnic area.

Fishing – Salmon and steelhead fishing are popular in the winter.

Boating – only non-powered boats are allowed, but Benbow Lake is excellent for sailing or rowing.

Swimming – Swimming is allowed and there is a well-maintained beach area.

Camping

Benbow Lake has 77 family campsites, some with hook-ups.

Plants

The tallest redwood, the Miles Standish Tree, at 225 feet tall and 13 feet in diameter, is easy to spot from a distance. Estimated to be more than 1,200 years old, the Miles Standish Tree bears scars from efforts to chop it down and effects of the 1947 fire.

Among the second-growth redwoods, Douglas-fir, oaks, laurel, big-leaf maple, alder, madrones, buckeye and yew compete for sunlight. Lower-elevation growth includes huckleberry, manzanita and coyote brush.

Human Effects on the Park

Heavy annual rainfall, combined with the loss of top soil during years of excessive logging, has caused severe erosion. The steep bluffs on the east bank of the South Fork of the Eel River continually erode into the river. Climate change also poses a threat to the park's plants and animals. Loss of coastal fog and increasing temperatures endanger the coast redwood habitat.

Cultural Resources

There are six archaeological sites, four of which are village sites. There are sixteen historic buildings, including residences, cabins and park infrastructure identified during the Park Rustic Survey.

CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK

~~Castle Rock State Park is part of a regional trail system linking the park with the San Francisco Bay Area and the Santa Cruz coast. The two major trail corridors—the Skyline to the Sea and Bay Ridge trails—lead hikers and backpackers through steep canyons, dense old-growth redwood forests, creeks and fields of wildflowers.~~

Location

~~The park is located on Highway 35, just 2 1/2 miles southeast of the junction with Highway 9.~~

Housing

~~One (1) trailer—Currently occupied~~

~~One (1) house—Currently occupied~~

~~There are no camp host sites.~~

Recreation

~~**Hiking and backpacking trails**—The park offers 35 miles of nature trails, many with steep and narrow slopes. The Skyline to the Sea trail connects Castle Rock and Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The 5.6 mile Saratoga Gap Loop leads to Goat Rock, Castle Rock Falls, Russell Point Overlook and the Castle Rock Trail Camp. Goat Rock provides panoramic views of the San Lorenzo Valley and the Pacific Ocean. The moderately difficult Ridge Trail is an excellent place to see the endangered peregrine falcon. The Saratoga Toll Road, a historic~~



~~logging road and stagecoach line from 1871, is now a well-shaded and graded hike offering some scenic viewpoints.~~

~~*Rock Climbing*—Castle Rock State Park provides a popular site to hike and rock climb. Climbers have scaled the park's outcrops of Vaqueros Sandstone, Castle Rock and Goat Rock for nearly a century. The sandstone's relatively hard exterior and unique tafoni patterns are ideal for bouldering and rock climbing. To preserve the character of these unique rock formations and minimize the impact on soils, vegetation, wildlife, other climbers and visitors, Castle Rock State Park supports "Leave No Trace" practices, which include proper disposal of trash and protection of natural resources.~~

Camping

~~Two trail camps—Castle Rock with 20 primitive sites and Waterman Gap with 6 primitive sites—are available. Both camps have water and pit toilets. An inclement weather shelter at Castle Rock Trail Camp provides a roof during storms.~~

Day Use

~~Partridge Farm site has picnic tables and an interpretive shelter.~~

Natural Resources

~~*Natural History*—Wildly eroded sandstone formations create prominent ridges in the park's canyons. A waterfall fed by natural springs cascades 100 feet down the steep mountain slopes to the San Lorenzo River. The river flowing through the park provides spawning habitat for steelhead. Steep trails lead to the unusual rock formations at Varian Peak, Goat Rock, Russell Point and Castle Rock.~~

~~*Geology*—Castle Rock's famed sandstone outcrops originated as submarine fan deposits on the continental shelf about 30 to 40 million years ago. These shelf deposits were then elevated and moved north by repeated violent movements along the tectonic plate boundaries now defined by the San Andreas Fault. All of the rocks west of the fault line are fundamentally different from the rocks on the east side. The uniquely sculpted, rounded rock outcrops along Castle Ridge have eroded to form pits, pockets, ribs and ridges. Referred to as tafoni, these erosional patterns have endless variations—from pock marks to honeycombed surfaces and large concretions and caverns. These complex patterns form under repeated exposures to rain and drought over eons, and embellish on natural internal structural variations, such as cracks and joint patterns in the rock.~~

~~*Vegetation*—Castle Rock State Park is recovering from years of agricultural use and logging that has caused significant vegetation changes. The park hosts diverse native and non-native plant communities: mixed evergreen forest, black oak forest, chaparral, grasslands and riparian woodland. Spring flowers display a colorful palette: pink or purple Chinese houses, lilac slender phlox, deep blue sky lupine, pink farewell-to-spring, and golden-elegant madia all thrive on the hillsides. Virgin and second-growth redwoods grow at an unusual elevation, above 2,500 feet along Saratoga Gap Trail. Their low water supply accounts for these dwarf redwood trees' uncommonly short 40 to 100 foot heights. Climate change affects all living things within the redwood forest. Experts fear that the area's increase in average temperature and decrease in rain and thick summer fog will endanger redwoods and other plants and creatures that depend on the redwood environment.~~

~~*Animal life*—Wild animals and reptiles seen in the park include coastal black-tailed deer, gray foxes, coyotes, California newts, mountain lions and many species of snakes. Turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, acorn woodpeckers, quail and scrub jays may be spotted. Golden eagles and peregrine falcons soar overhead.~~

Cultural Resources

~~There are ten known archaeological sites in the park, many of which have been damaged by park activity. There are ten historic buildings, including residences and infrastructure. In addition, there is the historic Partridge Orchard and the Saratoga Toll Road.~~

PORTOLA REDWOODS STATE PARK

~~The 2,800-acre park is situated in the craggy, rough terrain of a deep canyon. Located within the populous San Francisco Bay area, Portola Redwoods offers a hushed getaway from suburban bustle. First- and second-growth coast redwoods stand tall among thick ferns and redwood sorrel in gullies and on north slopes. The park's high ridges and southfacing slopes are covered by Douglas-fir and live oaks. Among the redwoods, Pescadero and Peters creeks flow along fault lines to form picturesque Tiptoe Falls. Fall Creek, a tributary of Pescadero Creek, tumbles eight feet down a mossy bank into a small pool. Continuing downstream, Fall Creek reaches the lower segment of the falls, enters another pool, cascades six feet over sticks and rocks, then continues its downstream journey.~~



Location

~~From Highway 35, turn west onto Alpine Road, go 3 miles, and turn onto Portola State Park Road. The road dead ends in the park.~~

Housing

~~There are four (4) houses. One (1) is currently occupied and three (3) are vacant. Seasonal housing is available and consists of four (4) structures. One structure has one (1) room only; one (1) structure has two (2) rooms; one (1) structure has three (3) rooms; and one (1) structure has a kitchen only. There is one (1) host site with full hook-ups~~

Recreation

~~Eighteen miles of hiking trails range from easy to strenuous. The easy ¾-mile Sequoia Nature Trail begins near park headquarters and crosses Pescadero Creek. The half-mile Old Tree Trail is also considered an easy hike. The moderate three-mile Slate Creek Trail winds through redwoods to the Page Mill site. A steep 10-mile hike on Bear Creek Trail leads to a 1.3-mile loop on Peters Creek Trail that traverses an ancient redwood grove.~~

Camping

~~Group Camping~~—Portola Redwoods State Park has four group campgrounds. Ravine Group Camp holds 25 people, and the Hillside, Point and Circle Group Camps each hold 50 people.

~~Family Camping~~—52 family sites, one accessible site and four walk-in environmental sites may be reserved from late spring through mid-autumn. No hook-ups are available.

~~Trail Camps~~—Six sites at Slate Creek Trail Camp are available from late spring through mid-autumn. Four first-come, first-served pedestrian and bicycle sites are located at the Huckleberry Hike and Bike Campground.

Day Use

~~Picnicking~~—Picnic areas are near the visitor center and include a 75-person Ramada Group Picnic Area.

Natural Resources

~~This area is a natural stream basin in a complex geological area along the San Andreas fault. Huckleberries dominate the redwood understory growth, while ferns, redwood sorrel and other shade-tolerant plants grow along the creeksides. California wax myrtle, tan oak, madrone, California bay laurel, big leaf maple and knobcone pine are among the park's tree species. Native ceanothus shrubs bloom as late as midsummer. State and federally threatened coho salmon and threatened steelhead trout live in Pescadero Creek. State endangered and federally threatened marbled murrelets nest high in the redwoods. Black-tailed deer, raccoons, gray squirrels, coyotes and mountain lions call Portola their home.~~

Cultural Resources

~~There are no known archaeological sites in the park. There are 18 historic buildings, which include residences and park infrastructure resources.~~

GRAY WHALE COVE STATE BEACH

The beach (a.k.a. Devil's Slide) features a sheltered cove surrounded by cliffs that drop abruptly into the Pacific Ocean.

Location

On the San Mateo Coast, north of Montara on U.S. Highway 1.

Housing

No housing is available.

Recreation

Gray whales can often be seen close to the shore. Sunbathing is also a popular activity between mid-April and mid-May.

Camping

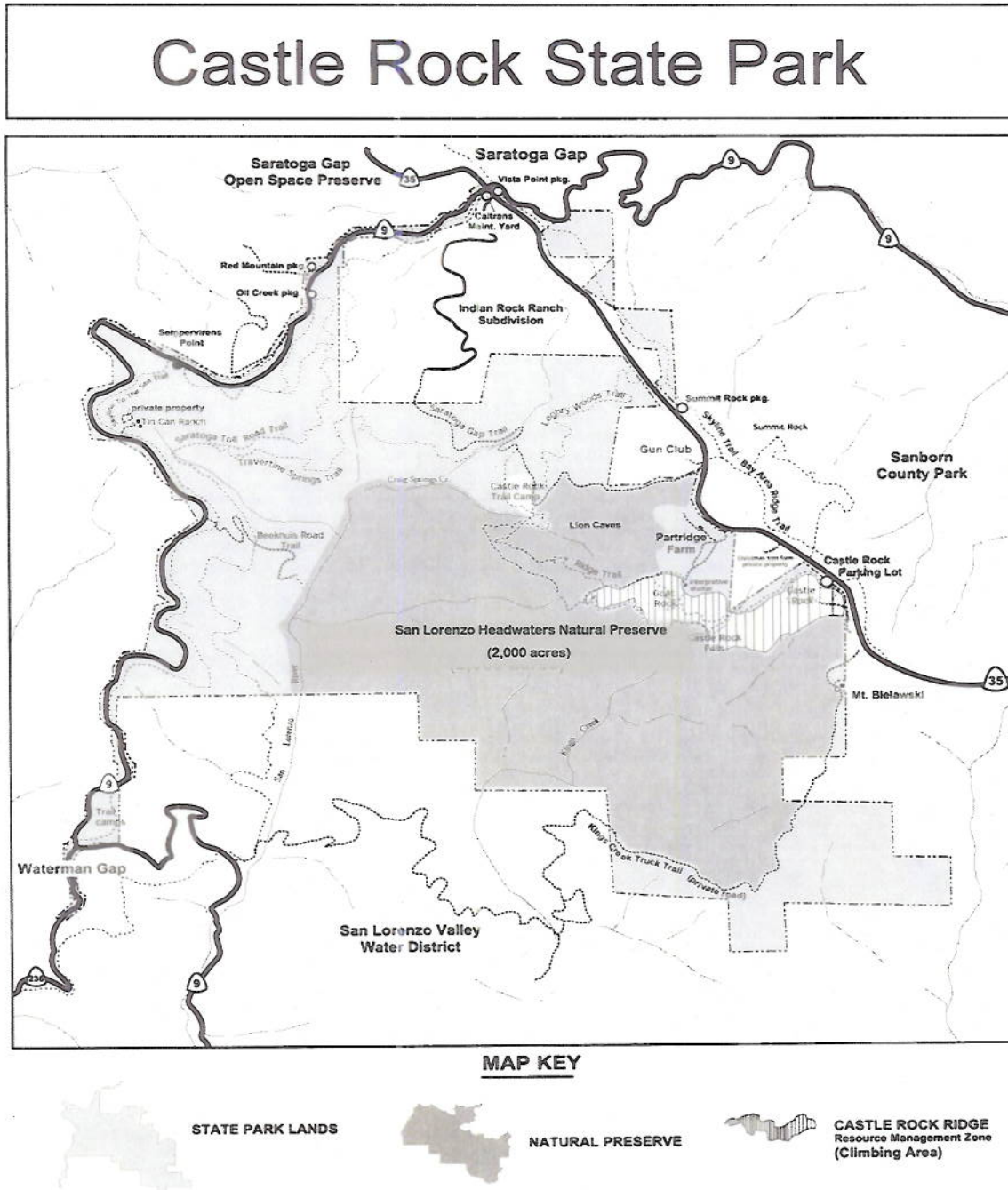
No Camping is available.



Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park



Castle Rock State Park



~~Portola Redwoods State Park~~